

### REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of March 27, 2003.

The present amendment cancels Claims 1, 3-14 and 17. It is respectfully submitted that this obviates the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claims 1 and 3-14 over the combination of the Yang, Aiello and Wong references (numbered paragraph 2 of the Office Action) and likewise obviates the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of Claim 17 over the combination of the Wong and Yang references (numbered paragraph 3 of the Office Action).

The Office Action rejected Claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the Wong reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,930,101) and the Beaudet reference (U.S. patent No. 6,469,795).

With respect to Claim 18, the Applicant respectfully submits the following.

The Wong reference discloses detecting the number of lines printed but not the number of rasters printed. Thus, the Wong reference fails to disclose the counting means for counting a printed raster number.

The Wong reference discloses measuring the total printer-on hours (col. 3, lines 23-27). This indicates that the Wong reference discloses measuring time as long as the printer is ON. In contrast, the timer of the claimed invention measures time from when printed operations for the print data are started to when the counting means counts the printed raster number. In other words, the timer of the claimed invention does not start measuring time just because the printer is ON, but starts measuring time when printing is started. Therefore, the Wong reference fails to disclose the timer of the presently claimed invention.

Moreover, the predicting means of the presently claimed invention predicts a completion time at which the print operation for a particular print data is completed. In contrast, the Wong

reference detects the remaining ribbon life based on signals from a line printer, but does not predict when the printing completes. The Wong reference fails to teach the predicting means of the present invention.

Additionally, the detecting means of the claimed invention detects the total raster number of the print data. The Office Action cites the Beaudet reference for a disclosure of detecting means. However, the Beaudet reference discloses a detecting means for the total number of sets (copies) to be printed and the number of sets (copies) printed so far ("set 124 of 200" in Figs. 4E-4F2, for example). Apparently, the number of sets differs from the raster number. Therefore, the Beaudet reference fails to disclose the detecting means of the claimed invention.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 18 is patentable over the cited prior art.

With respect to Claim 19, the Applicant respectfully submits the following.

The Office Action relies on the Wong reference for a disclosure of a printer provided with a counting means. However, the microprocessor 2 of the Wong reference receives signals from the line printer (see col. 3, lines 35-39). This means that the microprocessor 2 differs from the line printer. Additionally, the microprocessor 2 calculates the following counter variables – hours on, print hours, printed lines and remaining ribbon life (col. 3, lines 42-47). This indicates that the means for measuring the time, means for counting printed lines, and means for predicting remaining ribbon life are all provided to the microprocessor 2, but not to the line printer.

Accordingly, the Wong reference fails to disclose a printer provided with means for counting printed lines.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 18 and 19 are patentable over the cited prior art.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald E. Brown", with a horizontal line drawn underneath the signature.

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